

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 07941 082207Z

62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 /071 W

----- 015414

R 082125Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9845

ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7941

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PINS, MX

SUBJ: MONTHLY POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS - AUGUST

1. SUMMARY: ECHEVERRIA'S THIRD WORLD TRIP AND MOUNTING INTEREST IN THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION (ALONG WITH SPECULATION THAT THE FIRST MIGHT AFFECT THE SECOND) DOMINATED POLITICAL NEWS IN AUGUST. SOME OBSERVERS, INCLUDING PERSONS WHO MADE THE TRIP, THOUGHT THE POST-TRIP ECHEVERRIA MIGHT SEEK RADICAL SOLUTIONS TO DOMESTIC QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE SUCCESSION. HOWEVER, AT MONTH'S END, THE PRESIDENTIAL INFORME -- BALANCED, MODERATE, CALM -- REAFFIRMED ORTHODOX ECONOMIC POLICY AND TRADITIONAL MEXICAN POLITICAL VALUES, AND CALMED THESE FEARS SOMEWHAT. GOM PERSISTED IN KEEPING ECHEVERRIA'S UN SEC GEN CANDIDACY IN THE NEWS, AND ON INTERNAL SECURITY AN EXECUTION STYLE KILLING OF POLICE OCCURRED IN AUGUST, A SURFACE INDICATION OF A DEADLY ONGOING BATTLE BETWEEN GOM AND REMNANTS OF TERRORIST GROUPS. END SUMMARY.

2. ECHEVERRIA'S THIRD WORLD JOURNEY: ALTHOUGH THE GOM MAINTAINS ECHEVERRIA'S TRIP FURTHER DIVERSIFIED MEXICO'S FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS, WE DOUBT THAT THE 27 AGREEMENTS SIGNED WILL HAVE MUCH COMMERCIAL OR TECHNOLOGICAL IMPACT. HOWEVER, THE TRIP DID SYMBOLIZE THE PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE EXPANDING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 07941 082207Z

MEXICO'S ROLE IN WORLD POLITICS AND PROVOKED PRIVATE

CRITICISM OF THE SCARCE RESOURCES BEING DEVOTED TO THIS
END. THE TRIP ENDED WITH FIVE DAYS IN CUBA,
WHERE THE PRESIDENT WARMLY PRAISED CUBAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS
BUT STRESSED THAT MEXICO AS A "SOCIAL DEMOCRACY, NOT A
SOCIALIST STATE" (ONE OF THE FEW TRIP ASPECTS WELCOMED
BY THE GENERALLY CYNICAL PRIVATE SECTOR). SOME OBSERVERS
SPECULATED RATHER PERSUASIVELY THAT 44 DAYS OF INTENSIVE
THIRD WORLDISM WOULD LEAVE ITS MARK ON THE PRESIDENT --
ENCOURAGING RADICAL SOLUTIONS TO INTRACTABLE SOCIAL PROB-
LEMS AND THE SELECTION OF A LEFTIST SUCCESSOR.

3. PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION: IN MID-AUGUST AND MORE
SPECIFICALLY COINCIDING WITH THE PRESIDENT'S RETURN,
MEXICANS' FULL ATTENTION TURNED ONCE AGAIN TO THE PRESI-
DENTIAL SUCCESSION. THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN AUGUST WAS
THE SUDDEN AWARENESS THAT PRESIDENCY SECRETARY HUGO CERVANTES
DEL RIO HAD BEEN EXTREMELY VISIBLE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS
(SEE MEXICO 7733) WHEREAS GOVERNMENT SECRETARY MOYA PALENCIA
HAS VIRTUALLY DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT. COMBINING THIS WITH
SPECULATION ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP ON HIS
PREFERENCES FOR A SUCCESSOR, MANY OBSERVERS (INCLUDING SOME
MOYA SUPPORTERS) WERE ABRUPTLY JITTERY ABOUT MOYA'S CHANCES.
ALTHOUGH THIS LINE OF THINKING IS PLAUSIBLE, WE BELIEVE THAT
IN DOMESTIC MATTERS A SERIES OF DEVELOPMENTS IN LAST
FIVE MONTHS SHOW A SLIGHTLY MODERATING TREND AND THAT THE
PRESIDENT'S INFORME ON SEPT. 1 FAILED TO REVEAL THAT TRIP
MADE IMPACT ON HIS APPROACH TO INTERNAL ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL
QUESTIONS. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT PROBABLY IS STRONG ENOUGH TO
NAME SOMEONE OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT SECRETARY MOYA
PALENCIA, WE THINK HE WILL OPT FOR CANDIDATE WITH MOST
POLITICAL SUPPORT WITHIN RULING PARTY AND BUSINESS COM-
MUNITY, AND THAT PERSON IN OUR JUDGMENT CONTINUES TO BE
MOYA.

4. FIFTH PRESIDENTIAL INFORME: AS ALLUDED TO ABOVE,
ECHEVERRIA'S FIFTH INFORME GENERALLY PUT TO REST THOUGHT
(AND FEARS) THAT RHIRD WORLD TRIP HAD MADE PROFOUND IM-
PACT ON PRESIDENT'S APPROACH TO INTERNAL ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL QUESTIONS. WHILE MAJORITY OF SPEECH WAS PRIDEFUL
(JUSTIFIABLY IN MANY RESPECTS) RECITATION OF FIVE YEARS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 07941 082207Z

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (SIXTH INFORME IS TRADITIONALLY A CEREMONIAL
FAREWELL) PROSPECTIVE PORTIONS REAFFIRMED ORTHODOX ECONOMIC
POLICY AND REASSERTED BELIEF IN TRADITIONAL POLITICAL
VALUES. LIKewise, TONE OF SPEECH -- LOW KEY, CALM, DIS-
PASSIONATE -- MEXICANS FOUND REASSURING ON EVE OF
PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION. WE ALSO WERE PLEASED AT FAVORABLE
REFERENCES TO U.S..

5. SECRETARY GENERAL CANDIDACY: AUGUST SAW NO DIMINUTION OF MEXICAN TENACITY IN SEEKING UN SECRETARY GENERALSHIP FOR PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR IN MEXICO URIBE AND FOR SEC RABASA MADE SIMILAR PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT LACK OF DANGER OF A VETO OF AN ECHEVERRIA CANDIDACY. THE FORUM OF THIRD WORLD EDUCATORS MEETING IN ACAPULCO ENDORSED ECHEVERRIA AND IN HIS SEPT 1 INFORME, THE PRESIDENT MENTIONED THE SUBJECT TWICE - TO DECLARE HE WOULD NOT MODIFY HIS THIRD WORLD POLICIES TO CURRY FIRST AND SECOND WORLD FAVOR, AND TO REFUTE (PRIVATE) CRITICISM THAT HIS RECENT TRIP WAS INTENDED TO BOOST HIS CANDIDACY.

6. INTERNAL SECURITY: FOR FIRST TIME SINCE TERRORIST VIOLENCE BEGAN IN MEXICO SEVERAL YEARS AGO, TERRORISTS ON AUGUST 12 GUNNED DOWN FOUR GOM ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS IN HIT AND RUN EXECUTION STYLE KILLING. ALTHOUGH OMINOUS, ACT PROBABLY IS SYMPTOMATIC OF PRESENT DEBILITATED STATE OF MEXICAN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS. MEXICO HAS JUST ENDED YEAR WITHOUT ANY KIDNAPPINGS OF POLITICAL FIGURES AND NO BOMBINGS HAVE OCCURED SINCE LAST JANUARY. RECENT TREND, IF INDEED ANY IS EVIDENT, HAS BEEN ONE OF BANK ROBBERIES, PERHAPS AN INDICATION THAT TERRORIST GROUPS ARE IN REBUILDING PHASE. GOM MEANTIME APPEARS TO BE DETERMINED TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE.
CALDERHEAD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO07941
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750310-0856
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750974/aaaacnvk.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MONTHLY POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS - AUGUST
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PINS, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006